

Tuesday February 20th. 2018



EMMAUS
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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“Authoring our Own Future.”

The **Community Leadership Team (CLT)** met last Tuesday evening with in excess of 25 school families represented. We congratulate and thank those who have volunteered to lead each of the CLT arms: Kara Linayo - Catholic Identity; Elizabeth Allan & Melissa Pritchard - Fundraising; Jason & Terresa Fletcher - Adult Education; Brad Sward & David Allan - Grounds & Development; Sam Gent - Community Relationships; Kellie Tait - Welfare & Wellbeing. The Canteen, which is a fundraising activity for Emmaus, will again be managed by Emma Irvin & Regina Kaye. These people will be relying on the support of the whole school community to address each of the CLT arms. The role of Chairperson has been passed from Kara Meyer To Shelley Corcoran and the role of Minute Secretary has been passed from Anna Sims to Emma Irvin. The school community is very grateful to all who filled specific CLT roles in 2017 especially Kara and Anna who have filled these executive roles.

At the meeting, we discussed the need to upgrade the **School Master Plan** which seeks to ensure that the buildings and facilities at Emmaus will meet the needs of the school community. It was determined that a small team of parents and staff would be gathered to support consultation with the broader school community for the development of the Master Plan. With this in mind we are hoping to enlist the services of four parents and four staff members to work as a team. While specific skill or experience in design would be useful the greatest prerequisite would be an understanding of how the learning spaces at Emmaus support the educational philosophy that exists - your experience as a parent of a child who has lived that experience is vital. It is planned that a meeting would be called during regular work hours so some flexibility of work time would be required. If you are interested in being part of this team or suggesting the name of another please respond to the Care Monkey prompt.

An update of the investigation into possible changes to the **Girl's School Uniform** was also provided at the CLT meeting. Feedback received last year indicated that the majority of those who responded to a 'Have Your Say' discussion on the school website were in favour of including pants and shorts as an alternative to the school tunic. Some parents feel that a forum for open comment did not allow all to feel comfortable to express their opinion. Further discussion focused on whether shorts or pants would be a secondary option for girls with the tunic to remain the 'official' uniform for special events.

As a relatively new school there are many at Emmaus who clearly remember the significance of choosing a uniform that was distinctive, that made the children feel proud to wear it and that promoted unity among the students.

The further you engage in this discussion the more complex the issues become. I have read the comments posted, listened to the discussion at the CLT meeting, and investigated information provided by the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission. I am awaiting confirmation of the legal requirements for schools given that they do have exemptions from some elements of the Equal Opportunity Act in relation to school uniform.

Considering all of this there is a clear preference for the following:

1. Girls should have the opportunity to wear school shorts or pants as an alternative to summers dresses or the winter tunic.
2. The style of shorts and pants needs to be determined.
3. The Summer Dress and Winter Tunic will remain the uniform for official occasions such as school representation at external events.

I see no reason not to take action on the first two points and suggest that this be addressed as a matter of priority. In relation to the third point, I am not convinced of the merits to keep an 'official' uniform for special occasions that would not be worn at any other time. Does this allow scope for an 'authoring of our own future'? Does this respect choice and voice? Does this keep our school affordable for all families? If the decision were solely mine I would oppose this notion and suggest that the selected shorts and pants for girls would be the agreed uniform option for all school occasions. I am seeking feedback on these points through a simple survey to facilitate a final decision being made. Please respond via the Care Monkey prompt to register your views.

Finally, the Community Leadership Team discussed plans for this Thursday's Welcome Picnic. This is an informal opportunity for all families, new and old, to gather, meet some new people and enjoy each other's company. We look forward to seeing as many as possible on Thursday afternoon.

Tony Perkins, Principal.

Traffic management and driver behaviour at Emmaus

Yesterday I spent my afternoon in the turning circle attempting to ensure that traffic was able to flow freely through our carpark during pick up time. In years gone by we have been challenged to ensure that our after school traffic did not flow onto Geelong Road.

Unfortunately last night I witnessed several drivers choosing to ignore the vacant parks in our carpark, resulting in traffic banking up at the top of our turning circle and banking up onto Geelong Road.

To alleviate this problem all drivers are asked to use vacant parks and walk to collect your child rather than waiting in your car for the traffic in the turning circle to move.

Given the business of the carpark we stress the importance of your care and full attention **PLEASE NO MOBILE PHONE USAGE!**

Traffic is best managed when:

1. Vacant parks are used in preference to waiting in the turning circle
2. The service lane, The Gums and Leckie Grove are used as parking options and parents walk to collect their children.
3. Cars are not left unattended in the turning circle.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Georgia Cann

Enrolment Tours for 2019 New Families

Friday February 23rd

Tuesday March 6th

Thursday March 15th

Friday March 23rd

Monday March 26th

Booking details available on the Emmaus website.

WELCOMING OUR VORONDA FAMILIES

Corinna, Maya and Andrew Preston



Gerard, Joshua, Narelle, Riley & Mitchell Lavery



Amanda & Ruby Trenorden



Marcus, Jensen & Adriana Grant



Olivia, Will, Phillip & Laura Radisich



Claire & Laura Stevens

Important dates for term one, 2018.

Please note that there will be more dates shared with you throughout the term.

<i>Monday 19th February</i>	<i>Mok-borreyn Liturgy in Wayaperri 9:00am</i>
<i>Tuesday 20th February</i>	<i>Learning Conferences from 1:45pm</i>
<i>Wednesday 21st Feb</i>	<i>Foundation students rest day</i>
<i>Thursday 22nd Feb</i>	<i>Welcome picnic for new families.</i>
<i>Monday 26th Feb</i>	<i>Kanamo Liturgy in Wayaperri 9:00am</i>
<i>Tuesday 27th Feb</i>	<i>Learning Conferences from 1:45pm</i>
<i>Wednesday 28th Feb</i>	<i>Reconciliation preparation session 5:30-6:30 Foundation students rest day</i>
<i>Thursday 1st March</i>	<i>Western Bulldogs footballers visiting Emmaus</i>
<i>Monday 5th March</i>	<i>Nyreeka Liturgy in Wayaperri 9:00am</i>
<i>Wednesday 7th March</i>	<i>Grade 6 Camp-Halls Gap Foundation students rest day</i>
<i>Thursday 8th March</i>	<i>Grade 6 Camp-Halls Gap</i>
<i>Friday 9th March</i>	<i>Grade 6 Camp-Halls Gap</i>
<i>Monday 12th March</i>	<i>Labour Day Public Holiday</i>
<i>Wednesday 14th March</i>	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation for Year 4 students 6:30-7:30pm</i>
<i>Monday 19th March</i>	<i>Mok-borreyn Liturgy in Wayaperri 9:00am</i>
<i>Thursday 22nd March</i>	<i>Tony & Georgia at Diocesan Principals meeting</i>
<i>Monday 26th March</i>	<i>Kanamo Liturgy in Wayaperri 9:00am</i>
<i>Thursday 29th March</i>	<i>Final Hours Easter Liturgy</i>
<i>Thursday 29th March</i>	<i>Last day of Term 1 2:10 dismissal.</i>

In Faith, Hope and Love.

Tony, for the staff team.

“There is no power for change greater than that of a community discovering what it cares about.”

Margaret Wheatley

